

## PART 544—FEDERAL MUTUAL SAVINGS ASSOCIATIONS—CHARTER AND BYLAWS

### CHARTER

#### Sec.

- 544.1 Federal mutual charter.
- 544.2 Charter amendments.
- 544.4 Issuance of charter.

### BYLAWS

- 544.5 Federal mutual savings association bylaws.
- 544.6 Effect of subsequent charter or bylaw change.

### AVAILABILITY

- 544.7 In association offices.
- 544.8 Communication between members of a Federal mutual savings association.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1462, 1462a, 1463, 1464, 1467a, 2901 *et seq.*

SOURCE: 54 FR 49486, Nov. 30, 1989, unless otherwise noted.

### CHARTER

#### § 544.1 Federal mutual charter.

A Federal mutual savings association shall have a charter in the following form, which may include any of the additional provisions set forth in § 544.2 of this Part, if such provisions are specifically requested. A charter for a Federal mutual savings bank shall substitute the term "savings bank" for "association." The term "trustee" may be substituted for the term "director." Associations adopting this charter with existing borrower members must grandfather those borrower members who were members as of the date of issuance of the new charter by the Office. Such borrowers shall have one vote for the period of time such borrowings are in existence.

#### FEDERAL MUTUAL CHARTER

*Section 1. Corporate title.* The full corporate title of the Federal savings association is \_\_\_\_\_.

*Section 2. Office.* The home office shall be located in \_\_\_\_\_ [city, state].

*Section 3. Duration.* The duration of the association is perpetual.

*Section 4. Purpose and powers.* The purpose of the association is to pursue any or all of the lawful objectives of a Federal mutual savings association chartered under section 5 of the Home Owners' Loan Act and to exercise all the express, implied, and incidental

powers conferred thereby and by all acts amendatory thereof and supplemental thereto, subject to the Constitution and laws of the United States as they are now in effect, or as they may hereafter be amended, and subject to all lawful and applicable rules, regulations, and orders of the Office of Thrift Supervision ("Office").

*Section 5. Capital.* The association may raise capital by accepting payments on savings and demand accounts and by any other means authorized by the Office.

*Section 6. Members.* All holders of the association's savings, demand, or other authorized accounts are members of the association. In the consideration of all questions requiring action by the members of the association, each holder of an account shall be permitted to cast one vote for each \$100, or fraction thereof, of the withdrawal value of the member's account. No member, however, shall cast more than 1000 votes. All accounts shall be nonassessable.

*Section 7. Directors.* The association shall be under the direction of a board of directors. The authorized number of directors shall not be fewer than five nor more than fifteen persons, as fixed in the association's bylaws, except that the number of directors may be decreased to a number less than five or increased to a number greater than fifteen with the prior approval of the Director of the Office or his or her delegate.

*Section 8. Capital, surplus, and distribution of earnings.* The association shall maintain for the purpose of meeting losses the amount of capital required by section 5 of the Home Owners' Loan Act and by regulations of the Office. The association shall distribute net earnings on its accounts on such basis and in accordance with such terms and conditions as may from time to time be authorized by the Director of the Office: *Provided*, That the association may establish minimum-balance requirements for accounts to be eligible for distribution of earnings.

All holders of accounts of the association shall be entitled to equal distribution of assets, *pro rata* to the value of their accounts, in the event of voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up of the association. Moreover, in any such event, or in any other situation in which the priority of such accounts is in controversy, all such accounts shall, to the extent of their withdrawal value, be debts of the association having the same priority as the claims of general creditors of the association not having priority (other than any priority arising or resulting from consensual subordination) over other general creditors of the association.

*Section 9. Amendment of charter.* Adoption of any preapproved charter amendment shall be effective after such preapproved amendment has been approved by the members at a legal meeting. Any other amendment, addition,

## Office of Thrift Supervision, Treasury

## § 544.2

change, or repeal of this charter must be approved by the Office prior to approval by the members at a legal meeting, and shall be effective upon filing with the Office in accordance with regulatory procedures.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Association

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
President or Chief Executive Officer of the Association

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Office of Thrift Supervision

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision

Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

[54 FR 49486, Nov. 30, 1989, as amended at 61 FR 64015, Dec. 3, 1996]

### § 544.2 Charter amendments.

(a) *General.* In order to adopt a charter amendment, a Federal mutual savings association must comply with the following requirements:

(1) *Board of directors approval.* The board of directors of the association must adopt a resolution proposing the charter amendment that states the text of such amendment;

(2) *Form of filing—(i) Application requirement.* If the proposed charter amendment would: render more difficult or discourage a merger, proxy contest, the assumption of control by a mutual account holder of the association, or the removal of incumbent management; or involve a significant issue of law or policy; then, the association shall file the proposed amendment and obtain the prior approval of the OTS.

(ii) *Notice requirement.* If the proposed charter amendment does not involve a provision that would be covered by paragraph (a)(2)(i) of this section and is permissible under all applicable laws, rules and regulations, then the association shall submit the proposed amendment to the OTS, at least 30 days prior to the effective date of the proposed charter amendment.

(b) *Approval.* Any charter amendment filed pursuant to paragraph (a)(2)(ii) of this section shall automatically be approved 30 days from the date of filing of such amendment, provided that the association follows the requirements of its charter in adopting such amendment. This automatic approval does

not apply if, prior to the expiration of such 30-day period, the OTS notifies the association that such amendment is rejected or that such amendment is deemed to be filed under the provisions of paragraph (a)(2)(i) of this section. In addition, notwithstanding anything in paragraph (a) of this section to the contrary, the following charter amendments, including the adoption of the Federal mutual charter as set forth in § 544.1 of this part, shall be effective and deemed approved at the time of adoption, if adopted without change and filed with OTS, within 30 days after adoption, provided the association follows the requirements of its charter in adopting such amendments:

(1) *Purpose and powers.* Add a second paragraph to section 4, as follows:

*Section 4. Purpose and powers.* \* \* \* The association shall have the express power: (i) To act as fiscal agent of the United States when designated for that purpose by the Secretary of the Treasury, under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, to perform all such reasonable duties as fiscal agent of the United States as may be required, and to act as agent for any other instrumentality of the United States when designated for that purpose by any such instrumentality; (ii) To sue and be sued, complain and defend in any court of law or equity; (iii) To have a corporate seal, affixed by imprint, facsimile or otherwise; (iv) To appoint officers and agents as its business shall require and allow them suitable compensation; (v) To adopt bylaws not inconsistent with the Constitution or laws of the United States and rules and regulations adopted thereunder and under this Charter; (vi) To raise capital, which shall be unlimited, by accepting payments on savings, demand, or other accounts, as are authorized by rules and regulations made by the Office, and the holders of all such accounts or other accounts as shall, to such extent as may be provided by such rules and regulations, be members of the association and shall have such voting rights and such other rights as are thereby provided; (vii) To issue notes, bonds, debentures, or other obligations, or securities, provided by or under any provision of Federal statute as from time to time is in effect; (viii) To provide for redemption of insured accounts; (ix) To borrow money without limitation and pledge and otherwise encumber any of its assets to secure its debts; (x) To lend and otherwise invest its funds as authorized by statute and the rules and regulations of the Office; (xi) To wind up and dissolve, merge, consolidate, convert, or reorganize; (xii) To purchase, hold, and convey real estate and personalty consistent with its objects, purposes, and